

Hostel owner brings piece of nature to city

Ben Moebius
Oregon Daily Emerald

Cougar Hot Springs, a beautiful, natural attraction located east of Eugene is a popular destination for area residents. The problem is, a lot of people don't have a car or the time to travel an hour to soak their bones.

Bob Clemens, the owner of Little Cougar Hostel and Spa Rental, hopes to offer an alternative.

Little Cougar is located at 1955 W. Ninth Place, in Eugene. It's only three miles from the University so it's closer than its larger mentor.

Clemens tried to recreate the experience of outdoor lounging at Cougar Hot Springs in his small lot in west Eugene. The gravel parking lot and plain trailer-home front may not seem to reveal much, but as Clemens said, "The front is ugly, but the inside is beautiful. I would call it a hidden retreat in Eugene."

The lot behind the hostel building is landscaped with trees, shrubs, lawn and even a small waterfall. A large hot tub sits in the middle of the mini-wilderness. Visitors can soak in the sun, sit in the steamy tub and cool off in the waterfall.

The yard is fenced in with 8- to 10-foot cedar planks to cut out the gray urban

environment.

"It is really nice here in the evening," Clemens said. "It's quiet, and you can soak in the tub and look at the stars."

Clemens created his retreat in three months, hauling in eight tons of rock to build the waterfall. He opened the hostel, is not associated with the American Youth Hostels Association, a month ago.

"The spa is our primary business," Clemens said. "We opened the hostel because we had the space and we wanted people to be able to enjoy this facility when (Cougar Hot Springs) isn't open."

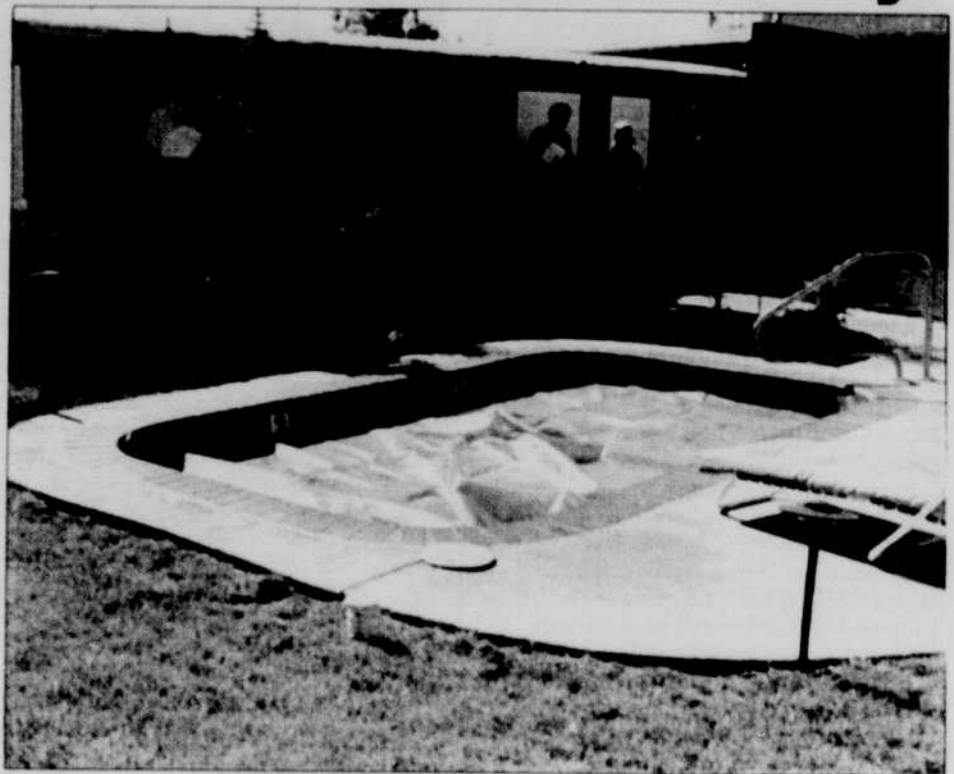
It costs \$10 a night for a bunk bed at the hostel, which includes spa use. There is a shower room but no kitchen facilities.

The spa can be rented for \$10 a day for a single and \$18 a day for a couple. It can also be rented by the hour, for \$6. Clemens said that the spa is clothing "optional."

"I really enjoy what I'm doing," Clemens said. "In what other job can you spend five hours a day sitting in a hot tub?"

The hostel and spa are open from noon to midnight, Monday through Thursday, and from noon to 2 a.m., Friday and Saturday.

For more information, call 343-8398.



Workers at the Little Cougar Hostel and Spa Rental show off the new hot tub.

GARY GRASS/Emerald

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Mortar Board will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, call 346-6005.

MEChA will meet today at 5 p.m. in EMU Room 30. For more information, call 346-3508.

Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 344-0832.

Eugene Dialogue Group will meet tonight at 7:15 in the EWEB Community Building. For more information, call 485-2407.

Student Projects Inc. board meeting will take place today at 5 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-2859.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 6 in the EMU Board Room. The Student Senate will hear special requests from the Women's Center, Black Student Union, OSPIRG, U.S. Student Association, Amazon Community Tenants Council, Legal Services and the Office of Student Advocacy. Confirmation hearings for appointees to the Constitution Court will also take place. For more information, call 346-3749.

MISCELLANEOUS

Outdoor Program will host an open house tonight at 7:30 in EMU Room 37. For more information, call 346-4365.

Latin American and Caribbean Student Organization will have an assembly and elections today at 4 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 683-1773.

■ CORRECTION

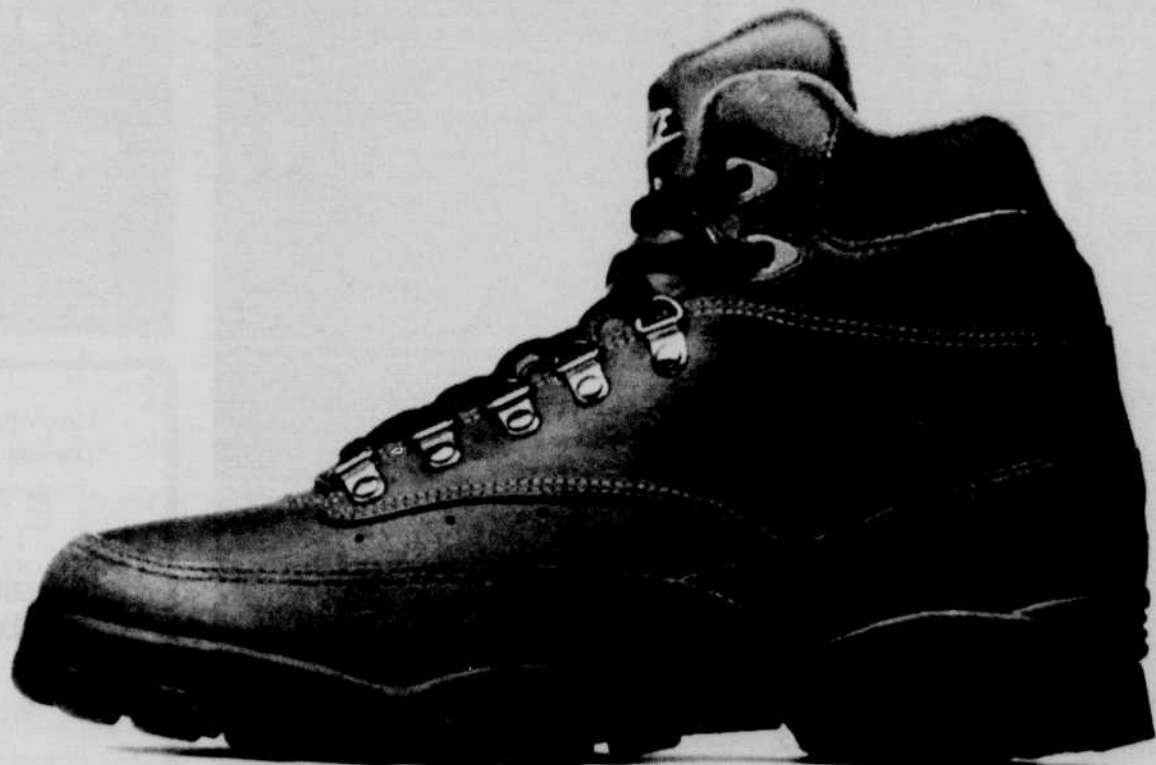
An article in the Sept. 28 edition of the *Oregon Daily Emerald* incorrectly stated that two part-time graduate teaching fellows for the Multicultural Center will be hired within two weeks of the Oct. 15 application deadline. Hiring for GTFs will not take place until later this term.

An article in the Sept. 26 edition of the *Emerald* incorrectly stated that the goal of the ASUO-sponsored registration drive is 8,000 registered voters. The goal is actually 7,000 voters.

A graphic in the Oct. 2 edition of the *Emerald* incorrectly indicated that the new technology resource fee is \$150 a term. It is actually \$50 a term, as the accompanying story indicated.

The *Emerald* apologizes for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

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